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The earliest Golliwog is the hero in books of verse written by Bertha Upton in the 1890's, and illustrated by her daughter Florence. The mother and daughter worked together on twelve illustrated books, all featuring the gallant little character and his adventures traveling to such exotic destinations as Africa and the North Pole, accompanied by his friends, the Dutch Dolls.

Gollies for Sale

Skin Games: Color and Skin Tone in the Black Community

By Jimi Izrael

...y Black"

Where I grew up, at the corner 143rd and Alder in East Cleveland, all the folks came in only three colors: doo-doo brown, booty-brown and midnight. Everyone else was white by

Tammy

Christie

One of the first black fashion dolls to be released in the 60s was a black version of Ideal's Tammy doll. Two types of black Tammys have been found. One used the earlier "baby" Tammy face body and the second variation was a "Grown Up Tammy" with the later, more teenaged looking face. The black Grown Up Tammy had short dark brown hair in a stylish "bob" and had bendable legs, a more developed body and the more refined arms and hands of the 1965 Grown Up Tammy and Misty dolls. She came dressed in the same outfit as her Caucasian sister and the boxes were identical. An example of a black version of Misty has been found, but it is unclear if this is a prototype or an actual production piece. She uses all the same molds as the Caucasian Misty. She has black hair and brown eyes.

In 1968, Mattel finally released a black fashion doll with realistic ethnic features. Talking Christie came with light brown skin and dark brunette hair in a sort of wavy bubble cut.

A DOLL FOR ALL